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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

 COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
 SUBJECT Troops at Zilina

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1. All Czechoslovak Army units in and around Zilina in various training camps belong under the divisional command in Bratislava.
 2. In the town there are now stationed a rifle regiment, an SNB battalion, and a munitions magazine.
 3. There are two military camps near the town, both of which were organized in the summer of 1953. East of Zilina is a training and refresher training camp for infantry, artillery and communications troops. Southeast of the town is a camp for technical troops. The men are organized into provisional formations. The camp commander is Major Antonin Klepka, about 40 years old. The staff of the camp command is 52 to 55 men, with a Soviet liaison group of nine.
 4. Training of reservists goes on in five battalions. There is an infantry battalion commanded by Capt. Karel Bersky, about 38 years old. It has a 1st Company, 120 men; 2nd Company, 100 men; 3rd Company, 90 men. In each company there is one heavy and one light machine gun, and in each squad one machine pistol. The communications battalion has 180 to 200 men, and is not motorized. The artillery section has a 1st Battery, 90 to 95 men; 2nd Battery, 90 to 100 men; 3rd Battery, 90 men. Each battery has one light and one heavy machine gun and two 122 mm howitzers. The section is horse-drawn. The technical battalion has a 1st Company, 85 to 90 men; 2nd Company, 90 to 100 men; 3rd Company, 80 to 90 men. It has 16 to 18 trucks of various types. There is also a drivers' school of 140 to 150 men, with four motorcycles, six passenger cars and 10 to 12 trucks.

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5. Reservists are put through four weeks of basic infantry training, in which they learn to fire all infantry hand weapons.
6. The first group came to the camps in Jun 1953, and consisted of 75 percent Czechs, the remainder being Slovaks. Of them, 45 percent were of the class of 1923, 15 percent each from the classes of 1925 and 1926, and the remainder from the class of 1924. Morale was poor.
7. After the first month there were common exercises with infantry, artillery and communications troops participating. During the training period there were four or five alarms. The plans for the training were worked out by the Soviet liaison staff.

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